

ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT *ESPRIT*

Vol. 41 No. 03

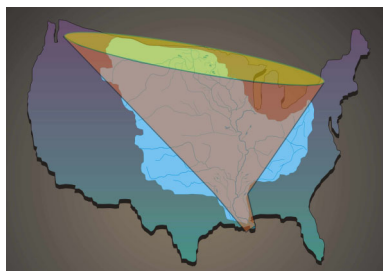
www.mvs.usace.army.mil

March 2002



Remembering the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927

The Mississippi River basin is one of the largest watersheds in the world. It has a drainage area of over 1,244,000 square miles and drains all or part of 31 states. From Montana in the northwest to New York in the northeast, and from New Mexico in the southwest to North Carolina in the southeast, the basin drains over 40% of the continental United States into the lower Mississippi River and funnels this water out to the Gulf of Mexico. When heavy rains, and in some areas thick blankets of snow, fell over half of the nation almost uninter-



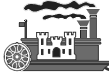
rupted for eight months in 1926-1927, the resultant runoff had to go somewhere. And go it did . . . at first as a trickle and eventually as a deluge down the lower Mississippi. When it

was all over, Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, called the flood "the greatest peace-time calamity in the history of the country."

"There was needed neither a prophetic vision nor a vivid imagination to picture a great flood in the lower Mississippi River the following spring."

The setting for the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 traced back to the second half of August 1926, when heavy and persistent rains fell over much of the Upper Midwest. The storms drenched an area from South Dakota in the north to Oklahoma in the south, then pummeled Iowa and Missouri, before skipping across the Mississippi River and hammering Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.

Continued on page 3



Commander's Perspective



COL Michael R.
Morrow, Commander

It's been bitterly cold outside as I consider these words, but just as surely as winter finally came to St. Louis at the end of February, spring will inevitably follow in short order.

With spring will come the host of activities we put off over the past winter and a multitude of unexpected and unforeseen dangers may lurk with them. One of the saddest duties a commander ever has is to respond to injuries or even deaths among his troops. This being my last spring leading the St. Louis District, I urge you all to take a moment to consider that most accidental deaths and injuries are frankly unnecessary.

Many personnel in the District engage almost daily in inherently dangerous activities. Those who serve at our locks and dams or aboard our watercraft are frequently close to danger. But they hear about safety often and consider it in what they do everyday. Because they are conscious of hazards and constantly work to avoid or reduce them, they post a truly remarkable safety record. They routinely follow stringent safety precautions - without fail.

But they, and the rest of us have to be especially mindful when we undertake or reengage in new activities or those we haven't performed since last summer. It may be climbing a ladder to clean out gutters and downspouts. It may be mowing for the first time with the new riding mower we bought on sale during the holidays. It may be the initial boating trip in the spring. It may be grinding to prepare lawn furniture for spring painting.

Many activities that harbor hazards can be made much less dangerous by the simple expedient of stopping to consider what we are doing before we perform them.

For example, almost every power tool represents an eye hazard; even some manual tools such as hammers. I am big on wearing proper eye protection. Check out the poster in this month's Esprit of the protective eyeglass lens that stopped a staple ricocheting from a power tool. Look at it again and imagine the pain and suffering that might have occurred had that person not been wearing those safety glasses.

For another example, even if you yourself are properly trained and equipped when using a power mower consider others in the area. A rock coming off a mower blade can injure or even kill. Check the area. Warn others of the hazard or have them depart the vicinity.

Or consider boating hazards. The law requires that there must be enough personal flotation devices (life jackets) in a boat for each person onboard. States dictate the ages at which children must actually be wearing PFDs at all times in a boat - it's everyone under 13 in Illinois and under 7 in Missouri. And how about the proper handling of fuel?

All of these examples have a common thread. Proper safety demands that we anticipate risks and take measures to avoid or eliminate them.

Inspect your equipment. Are ladder rungs loose or damaged? Are moving

parts corroded or loose? Do you remember all the safety precautions? Reread them if you are rusty on operating procedures. Maybe reread them even if you think you aren't! It may be the step you forget that injures you or a loved one.

And then take all of the proper safety precautions: wear eye protection or proper protective clothing or equipment, survey the situation and check for hazards. Don't take short cuts. Don't skip safety precautions to drill even one hole or to cut one branch.

I want this to be a safe spring for the entire St. Louis District Army Corps of Engineers family. Think safety: first, last and all the time.

Essayons.

In This Issue:

Remembering the flood Page 3

Identity theft Page 5

Close calls Page 5

Eye safety Page 6

Around the District Page 7

Way I Remember it Page 8

Navigation Study Page 10

Diversity Week Page 13

Employee of the Month
..... Page 11

Command Sergeant Major's
Visit Page 14

Retiree's Corner Page 15

'27 flood poem Back Cover



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District®

ESPRIT is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published monthly, by contract, in 1450 copies, by the Public Affairs Office, US Army Engineer District, St. Louis. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

District Commander ----- Michael R. Morrow

Chief, Public Affairs ----- Alan J. Dooley

Editor, Design, Layout ----- Russell A. Elliott

Address mail to: US Army Engineer District, St. Louis, ATTN: CEMVS-PA, 1222 Spruce, St. Louis, MO 63103-2833, Phone (314) 331-8095



Remembering the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 from page 1

The rain inundated farm fields, drowned crops, saturated the soil, and filled creeks, streams, and rivers—all during the fall dry season. By early September many of these states were experiencing moderate flooding.



Then it rained again . . . and again . . . and again . . . for almost an entire month. By October the lower Mississippi River on the Vicksburg gauge exceeded 40 feet. Since the beginning of record keeping, only on six occasions had the river exceeded 30 feet on the Vicksburg gauge during the month of October; and on each occurrence the following spring witnessed a record or near-record high water mark. Similar gauge readings were common along the entire Mississippi River. Perhaps even more alarming for those people living along the lower valley, were the disturbing gauge readings along the Ohio and Missouri Rivers. The average reading through the last three months of 1926 for every single gauge on these rivers was the highest on record for that time of year. The Mississippi River was already swollen, and more water was coming into the system.

A new series of storms rampaged through the basin in mid-December. On New Year's Day 1927, the Mississippi River exceeded flood stage at Cairo—the earliest for any year on record. Shortly thereafter, every gauge from Cairo to New Orleans had reached or exceeded flood stage. At the time, levees were the only measures of flood control along the lower Mississippi. Although the use of cutoffs, reservoirs, and floodways had been discussed in the past, a “levees-only” policy had been

adopted. The Mississippi River Commission's (MRC) levee system—a patchwork by today's standards—was a substantial system. It was also the culmination of nearly fifty years of work. While the MRC had pride and confidence in the levee system, the levees themselves entered 1927 at a disadvantage. The high water levels of the previous fall and early winter prevented many levee repairs; and maintenance operations usually accomplished during low water periods. In late 1926, there were no low water periods.

“It was as if the Mississippi was growing and swelling and rising in preparation, gathering itself for a mighty attack, sending out small floods as skirmishers to test man's strength.”

More storms hit in January—and not just along the Mississippi River. The severe storms, covering one-half of the country, dropped extreme amounts of precipitation in the form of rain or

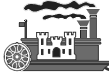
February, the White and Little Red Rivers broke through surrounding levees and inundated 100,000 acres in Arkansas with more than 10 feet of water.

More rain fell. On March 1st, the Ohio River flooded at Pittsburgh. It took the crest 38 days to reach New Orleans. Five weeks prior, the crest of an earlier flood at Pittsburgh had only taken only 29 days to reach New Orleans. Water coming into the lower Mississippi was piling up; the river's storage capacity was depleting. Private levee after private levee failed along the tributaries feeding the lower Mississippi, but still the river rose. The rain continued. Gale-force winds prompted large waves to pound the already saturated levees along the entire stretch of the lower Mississippi. Underseepage and sand boils were prevalent throughout. While engineers and levee district commissioners kept a sharp eye out weak spots, armed guards kept an equally sharp eye out



snow depending upon geographic location. The Cumberland and Ohio Rivers were flooding; the Illinois, St. Francis, Arkansas, and Missouri Rivers were flooding; countless rivers, streams and creeks were flooding. In

for saboteurs. There were numerous reports of armed guards shooting saboteurs who were intent of dynamiting levees to save their land on the opposite side of the river. By April 9th, more than 1 million



acres of land were covered by floodwaters . . . and the rain continued to fall. On April 15th, New Orleans received nearly 15 inches of rain over an 18-hour period; 12 inches of rain fell as far north as Cairo. The very next day a 1,200-foot section of the federal levee at Dorena, Missouri, collapsed—the first federal levee to collapse during the flood-inundating over 175,000 acres in the Missouri Bootheel. Three days later, on April 19th, a levee near New Madrid, Missouri, burst open, flooding an additional 1 million acres.

Much to the dismay of the flood fighters to the south, most of the floodwaters from both breaches returned to the Mississippi River. This was particularly true at Mounds Landing, Mississippi, where the river was nearly 1.5 feet higher than the actual levee, and held back only by sandbags stacked three bags high.

On April 20th, it rained again. On



April 21st, the levee at Mounds Landing broke, marking the single most destructive levee breach to occur during the flood. As the levee sloughed into the river, a wall of water nearly a mile wide and 100-feet high crashed into the Mississippi Delta, flooding an area 50 miles wide and 100 miles long—and home to over 185,000 people—with as much as 30 feet of water.

But, as devastating as the breach was, the flood was far from over. All of the water pouring through the Mounds Landing breach eventually funneled back into the river north of Vicksburg. Over the next several weeks, the flood continued its destructive path downstream, topping

one levee after the next. By the middle of May, the high water had caused 17 breaks on the main levee line and 209 breaches on the tributaries.



“ . . . Out on the water there was unimaginable silence. As far as the eye could see was an expanse of brackish chocolate water. There was not the bark of a dog, the lowing of a cow, the neighing of a horse. Even the trees turned dingy, their trunks and leaves caked with dried mud. The silence was complete and suffocating.”



No comprehensive figures officially capture the total destructiveness of the flood, particularly on the affected tributaries stretching from Oklahoma to West Virginia. Along the lower Mississippi alone, the floodwaters inundated an estimated 27,000 square miles of land, covering seven states. In terms of gauge readings, volume of discharge, and destruction, the flood of 1927 was unprecedented. Total flood losses were staggering. At final count, 246 people were confirmed dead as a result of the flood, although

some estimates exceed 1,000 deaths. Over 700,000 people were forced from their homes, with nearly 325,000 of those forced to live in one

of the 154 refugee camps set up throughout the valley. Total property lost and damaged was estimated at \$400 million, exceeding the aggregate losses of all previous Mississippi River floods.

The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 forced the MRC, the Corps of Engineers, and Congress to overhaul the flood control plan for the lower Mississippi River. After much debate, Congress approved the Flood Control Act of 1928. Through this historic act, Congress instructed the MRC to implement a plan developed by Maj. Gen. Edgar Jadwin, the Chief of Engineers, for controlling floods on the lower Mississippi. The approved program, known then as the Jadwin Plan and now as the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, essentially marked an abandonment of the “levees-only” approach to flood control in favor of the comprehensive system in place today that incorporates the use of floodways, reservoirs, spillways and levees.

*Note: Most of the information contained in this account, along with each italicized quotation, was borrowed from the book, *Rising Tide*, by John M. Barry.



Identity theft:

Protect yourself and your credit

If you care about the privacy of your financial information, your credit history, and your charge-card numbers, you can protect yourself from criminals. Identity theft is the fastest growing financial crime in the U.S.

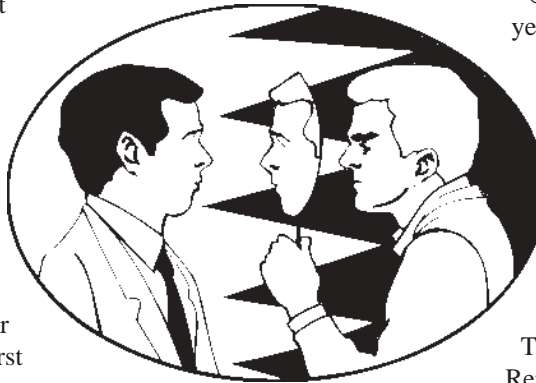
It can be as simple as someone stealing your credit-card number and charging merchandise to your account. Or it can be much more far-reaching. A crook could use your name, birth date, and Social Security number to take over your bank accounts or set up new ones.

Financial institutions are liable for most unauthorized charges. The worst effect could be on your credit history. It could prevent you from getting a mortgage, a job, or good auto insurance rates. Ways to protect your identity include:

Ⓢ Don't put bank statements or credit-card offers into the trash where

they can be picked up by someone else.

Ⓢ Use a paper shredder for every piece of junk mail, usable checks from



your credit-card company, and bank statements. Destroy records you no longer need: bank statements, credit-card receipts, health-insurance reimbursements. Shredders are cheap and easy to use. If mail theft is a

problem, get a lockable mailbox.

Don't put letters or payments on your mailbox for the postman to pick up. Anyone else can too.

Ⓢ Buy a credit report at least once a year and check it carefully.

Ⓢ Don't carry rarely used credit cards, extra identification, or anything that shows your birth date. One authority recommends using your passport for ID. It doesn't give your address.

To get a credit report, call Equifax at (800) 685-1111; Experian at (888) 397-3742; or TransUnion at (800) 916-8800. Reports cost \$8.50, according to Business Week.

To stop pre-approved credit card offers, call (888) 567-8688.

To get off junk-mail and telemarketing lists, go to www.the-dma.org/consumers/privacy.html.

No crystal ball needed:

Close calls predict the (dangerous) future

"Sweat the details" sounds like something an engineer or an accountant would do. But nowhere is sweating the details more important than in the pursuit of safe working conditions.

Little things can add up to something big. A small hazard will be multiplied by the number of people exposed to it, and multiplied again by the amount of time it exists before being corrected.

We can't tell you what to look for, because a new situation can show up any time, in any area, and affect almost any job. But you'll know it when you see it. That's the time to get it reported and documented. The safety of all is protected by investigating everyday incidents and correcting



minor hazards that could turn up on any given day.

Sometimes people think a potentially hazardous condition is just

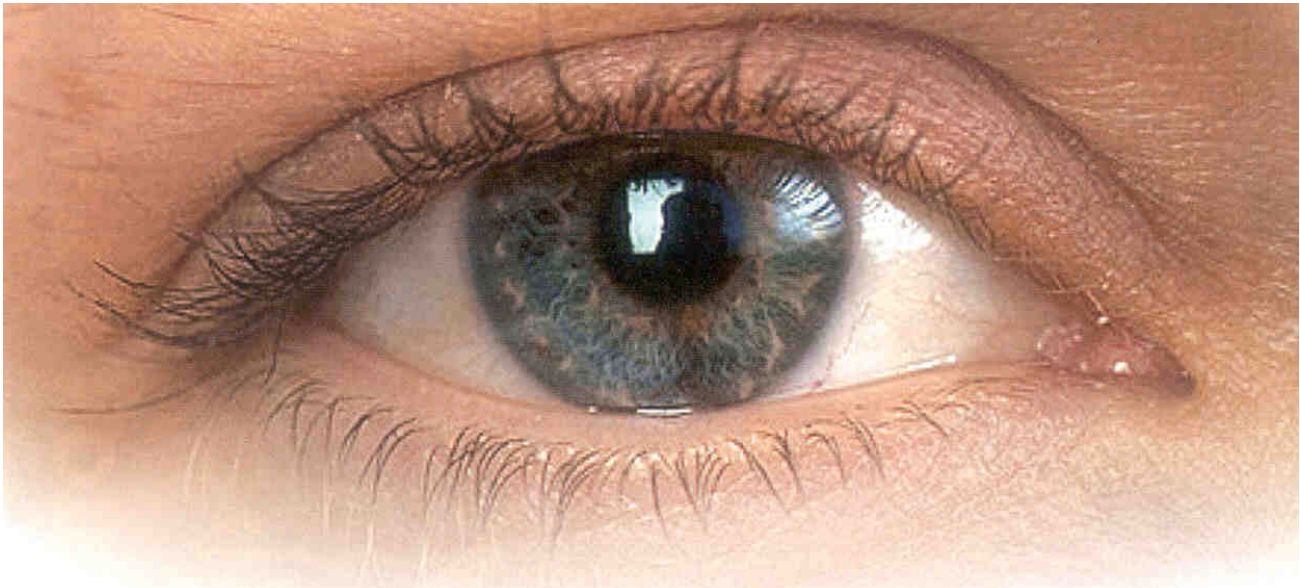
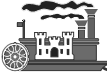
normal and expected on the job.

Instead, they should be particular about their area. They shouldn't put up with things like grease on the floor or a wobbly step.

Be watchful. Discover the leaking hydraulic hose, missing screws on stairs and railings, missing equipment guards, or empty fire extinguishers.

Watch for missing lights that make it hard to see and for damaged signs that are hard to read. Make sure that chemicals are stored correctly and that eye wash units work.

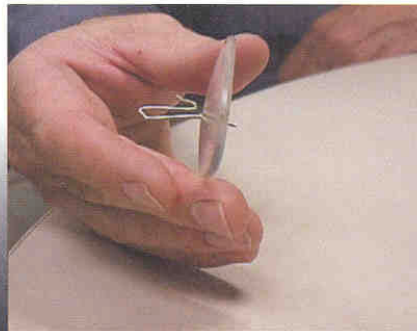
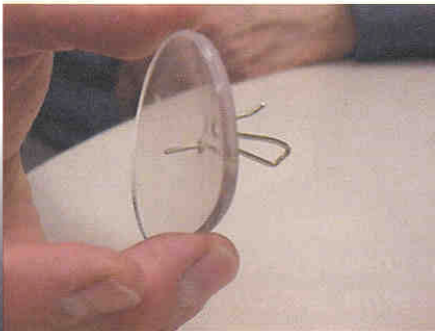
When you discover something that's not right, report it right away. For every condition that is made safe, an injury is less likely to occur, says the National Safety Council.



Is Your Eyesight Worth Not Wearing Your **Safety Glasses?**

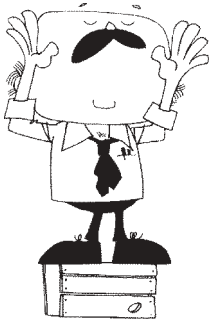
A Boeing employee began encouraging his 18-year old son, who installs siding on houses, to wear safety glasses. His son was resistant and stated that he did not need them and that he felt he wasn't going to get hurt. On one occasion, his son got aluminum dust in his eyes while cutting gutter material. The father told his son that safety glasses would keep the dust out of his eyes. His son finally gave in and started wearing them.

A week or two later, the son was applying siding with an air-powered staple gun. When he fired a staple, it hit a metal plate behind the siding and it ricocheted back towards his face. One leg of the staple penetrated the safety glass lens. It hit with such force that the frames were cracked. Fortunately, he only received bruising on the eyebrow and cheekbone from the impact. The safety glasses definitely saved his eyesight, and possibly his life!





Around the District



Mr. Larry Griffin retires with 30 years of service to the Corps. COL Morrow was on hand to make the presentation.



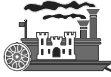
He cuts his retirement cake to share with his co-workers

Service Base



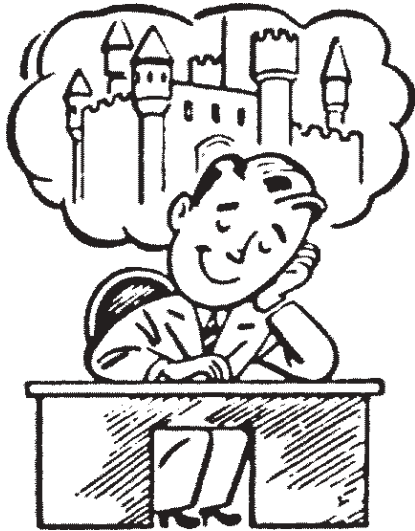
District Commander Colonel Michael Morrow recently visit the Service Base to present Length Of Service Pins and Certificates to employees who have completed a total of more than 445 years of federal service. Pictured with COL Morrow are (name and years of service): William Barthlomew - 10 Thomas Gibson - 15 Thomas Brace - 15 Tommie Cole - 20 Steven Dierker - 25 Ted Hayn - 25 Michael Morgan - 25 Gerald McClintock - 25 Terry Bequette - 25 Gary Findlay - 30 James Hinton - 30 Welton Joggerst - 30 Carl Raines - 35 Joan Heckstetter - 35

The following District employees - all assigned to Dredge Potter and receiving pins and certificates were unable to be present. Robert Crighton - 25 Tony Harris - 20 William Woods - 15 Joseph Stefanko - 10 Charles Smith - 10 Marty Seger - 10 Robert Thompson - 10



The Way I Remember It!

By Claude Strauser



Chuck Camillo came into my office today and asked me to write a short article about flood fighting. He wanted something entertaining, maybe a little humorous and with little technical language. Hmmm! What is an engineer to do? Here is my effort to meet his criteria.

During the Great Flood of 1973 (yes, there was a flood in 1973) I was assigned as a sector engineer on the Illinois River. I was responsible for the Nutwood, Eldred, Keach and Spankey Drainage and Levee Districts. We were experiencing record high river stages on the Illinois River for a combination of reasons. We had a lot of rain upriver on the Illinois watershed and we had a "backwater" problem from the flooding Mississippi River. I was 26 years old and this was my first big flood.

One of the most difficult tasks was organizing volunteers to fill sandbags, transport sandbags and to place sandbags on the levee. We ask the schools to let the students out to help place sandbags. We had a lot of kids and each group of kids had an adult in charge. Whenever a problem was observed, a small group was assigned to address the concern. Sand boils were a recurring problem along the toe of the levees. If the sand boil was

pumping clean water we were not concerned. If the sand boil was pumping soil then we were concerned and we determined if we needed to surround the boil with sandbags. We called this ringing the sand boil.



These rings were most often circular in shape and completely surrounded the boil. The rings were built as high as necessary in order to equalize the pressure and stop the boil from pumping soil.

I placed an adult carpenter in charge of one group of kids. I explained that we needed to ring the boil and then I continued up the levee to other areas and assigned other groups to their tasks. When I returned the carpenter had almost completed his ring. What I didn't realize was how a carpenter thought when I gave him his assignment -he didn't cut any corner, but he



sure created some. The ring was not round but was built with right angles. This was the first (and only) rectangular ring that I had ever observed. [neither has anyone else!]

When one of the senior engineers (Gordon Davis, from the District Office) inspected my area, he was amazed by this particular rectangular ring. He made fun of me for many years because of what he saw.

That is the way I remember it.

Claude



A Park Ranger Says Goodbye to Lake Shelbyville and Hello to Active Duty Navy Life...

By Storekeeper First Class, Leanne J. Cruitt, USNR (formerly known as Leanne J. Cruitt, Park Ranger, US Army Corps of Engineers)

The phone call.....

I guess I can't say I was surprised when I got the call at work last October 30, telling me that my life would change for at least the next year. The call I received that day was from the Decatur, IL Naval Reserve Center where I have drilled for the past 15 years. The subject of the call was to inform me that I had less than 48 hours to report up to Great Lakes/Chicago to be processed for active duty for the next year and possibly two. Since the evening of September 11, my husband (who is active duty Navy at Scott AFB) and I had discussed the possibility of my being called up. My rate as an SK (storekeeper/supply/logistics) is a fairly busy rate during both peacetime and war. So, when I got the call, I thought I was being called up to do supply type work. I had always thought of my weekend drills and two-week annual training with the reserves as a "practice" for the "big game" if it ever happened. So when I was called up, I thought how good it would be to finally get off the bench and get to play in the game. But as it turned out, with security having top priority these days, I was one of 3,000 Navy Reservists called up to work in law enforcement and security on bases in the US and around the world. That evening at home, I put away my park ranger uniforms and began packing my navy uniforms.

Hello Crane.....

And, so here I am, stationed at Crane



Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC Crane) in southern Indiana, along with other reservists, assigned to the Security Augmentation Team. We were trained with a 9mm pistol that we wear as a part of our uniform. Our workday consists of working at one of five entrance gates, checking ID cards and inspecting vehicles; escorting trucks carrying explosives; patrolling the perimeters of the base by vehicle or on foot; and guarding sections of railroad track. We work along side a team of Department of Defense (DOD) police officers and provide security 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The DOD police force and the rest of the employees on base are all very appreciative of our being here and even invited us into their homes when we couldn't go home over the holidays. (Working security means not having weekends or holidays off – when I return to civilian life, I will never again take for granted holiday pay, overtime or holiday weekends off!)

On Thanksgiving Day, Officer Woodward brought in a feast for those of us working that day; and during the Christmas holidays, the Military Spouses Club gave us all packages full of home-baked candies and cookies. I have worked at many navy bases around the world, and I can honestly say, this is the best group of people by far. Southern hospitality certainly reaches as far north as southern Indiana!

Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center is approximately 63,000 acres in size with an 800-acre lake, several ponds and streams. Close to 90 % of the base is timbered with huge rock formations and rugged, rolling hills. It is one of the most scenic Navy bases I have been to. This base is the 2nd largest Naval Base in the US with Norfolk being the largest.

Crane is a high-tech Acquisition and Fleet Support organization focused on Ordnance, Electronics, and Electronic Warfare. There are approximately 4,000 federal civilian employees working here with 25% of them employed as scientists and engineers. Crane's expertise includes Radar Systems, Strategic Systems, Acoustic Sensors, Microelectronics, Night Vision/Electro-optics, Air and Sea

Electronic Warfare, Chemical/Biological Warfare Detection, and Ordnance Products.

Facilities.....

I was actually one of the first activated reservists to report to Crane and was first in line to get a room at the Combined Bachelors Quarters. I call it a room, but it's actually a three-room suite with kitchenette, living room, bedroom, and bath. I call it quarters, but it's actually more like a lodge! My sister, who visited me recently, commented that she didn't feel so bad for me now that she saw where I lived!

I have a "lake view" room, and from my room, I can watch the deer, Canada geese, fox, and of course coyotes prowling nearby!

There are only a limited number of permanent active duty personnel stationed here. With so few people living on base, most of the facilities are closed on weekends, making the base a virtual ghost town. Thank goodness for the fitness center, which is one of the few facilities open all day on Saturdays and Sundays. It is very well maintained and very well equipped. You can always find a member of our security augmentation team there taking advantage of this wonderful facility. The commissary and Navy Exchange are also visited frequently by our group. It's so convenient not having to drive 15 or 20 miles to the nearest town for supplies. We also have a chapel, community swimming pool and a gas station. Eating establishments include the Lakeview Conference Center/Club and the Crane Cafeteria, both of which are closed on weekends and holidays. During the summer months, there is a marina with rental boats, campground and a golf course for our use. And of course, there is a bowling alley (four lanes) – what military base would be complete without one?

The only real "wildlife" here consists of approximately 2700 white tail deer, several large flocks of wild turkey, bald eagles, great blue heron, red fox, coyote, deer, timber rattlesnakes, northern copperhead, and bobcat. This is a place where a park ranger could never get homesick for the great outdoors!

Time passes.....

I have been here five months now, and I have definitely learned a lot about security and force protection. I have also made some really close friends. We've all seemed to settle into a routine and the days are starting to pass by more quickly. But time has not passed without tragedy... a woman who was activated with me to Crane, from my home unit, has died. It was so sad - she was such a dedicated and patriotic citizen and sailor who was also activated during Desert Storm. But her death has brought us on the security team and the Dept. of Defense Police force, much closer. We are a tighter knit group now because of what happened - we're determined never to let it happen to a fellow shipmate again. It has made us stronger.

Pride....

Being called up for active duty on such a short notice really changes your life dramatically, and all the planning in the world can't help the feeling of "upheaval" you feel for the first month. But when I raised my hand and took the oath of enlistment 15 years ago, this was part of the deal. I feel extremely lucky to be stationed just one state away from home and far from harm's way unlike so many other soldiers and sailors.

After being called up, I received many encouraging emails from fellow veterans in the St. Louis district – thank you Colonel Morrow, Major Bigelow, Roger Hayes, Pat Dibelo, and Russ Elliot – those messages meant a lot to me. And at any given time, I can call up my old office at Lake Shelbyville and find out how many more days of active duty I have left to go. Linda, Sharon, Lesa, and Lois are keeping a count down on a board in the front office. It is things like that and the support of my husband and family that makes this time more bearable.

And if I have to be activated – this is where I want to be – among some of the friendliest civilian employees and reservists I have ever worked with! I'm proud to be here at Crane serving in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. This is what serving our country is all about – a little sacrifice and a lot of pride for such a just cause.

-Essayons and Go Navy!



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Conducts Public Meetings on Navigation Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a series of five public meetings in March to present an overview of the newly restructured Navigation Study of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway that is currently ongoing. One meeting was conducted in St. Louis, March 13.

The purpose of the meetings was both to provide the public an update on there study and to solicit their reactions and ideas. According to project manager Denny Lundberg from the Rock Island District, "We want to see if there is general agreement with the direction in which we are heading."

The St. Louis session was conducted at a hotel near Lambert Field. More than 100 interested citizens and representatives of business and environmental interests attended. It offered three "open house" periods during which the public could discuss issues one-on-one with project experts. An evening event included a formal presentation, followed by a question and answer period and finally time for interested parties to make statements and have them entered into the official record of the proceedings.



More than 100 citizens representing a broad spectrum of interests attended a public meeting, March 13, to learn about and discuss the newly restructured Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway Navigation Study being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At the end of the evening's formal presentation and question and answer period, more than a dozen people representing themselves and various navigation industry and environmental interest groups rose to make statements.

The study was significantly restructured to encompass recommendations made by the National Research Council. Changes made in the study include an analysis that looks at various scenarios for plausible future world conditions versus a single 50-year prediction. The new study also is more comprehensive, giving equal consideration to planning for the environment.

The public meetings are the next step in the renewed study. Lundberg said, 'We've been engaging key federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations. We now

feel it is time to engage the general public in this new collaborative process for river planning.'

In addition to the St. Louis meeting, identically formatted sessions were conducted in Peoria, Ill.; Bloomington, Minn.; La Crosse, Wis. and Davenport, Iowa.



The March 13 public meeting to discuss the Restructured Navigation Study of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers drew media interest as well. Here, KMOX-Radio 's (CBS) Ollie Dowell interviews project manager Denny Lundberg from the Rock Island District prior to the evening's formal session.



Rend Lake

Don't Try This at Home



Looking like an unbelievable fantasy weapon from a James Bond movie or perhaps a reject from the movie Wild Wild West, a power company helicopter prepares to take off with a cable carrying eleven circular saw blades to clear trees and brush along high voltage power line rights of way.

Rend Lake was the recent scene of an unusual tree trimming operation as the power company cleared their high voltage transmission line right of way through Corps property there. The process removed trees that might fall and short out the electrical lines along an approximately 10-mile path alongside the east side of the lake area.

According to Rend Lake Manager Phil Jenkins, who observed the operation, "Instead of using ground crews to work through the area to remove trees and brush, they used two helicopters. Each had a cable with whirling saw blades suspended beneath it. They're powered by a small gasoline engine and belt drive system and they fly along the lines, cutting an approximately 50 yard-wide path." Although ground crews are required to remove the cut materials and to clear directly under the lines, this method saves considerable labor and time, especially where vehicle access is difficult.

Ground safety observers assist in guiding the helo as it flies near the power lines.



Once airborne, the saw blades are powered by a small gasoline engine that is connected to the blades via a belt drive system. A ground safety observer monitors the operation and another crew removes the cut branches and brush.



Corkey the Robotic Water Safety boat and Digger the wannabe paleontologist (Rend Lake Park Ranger) continue to visit Southern Illinois schools sharing their water safety message.



Carlyle Lake

Six retired maintenance workers from the Carlyle Lake Project Office are still keeping in touch. Retirees Billy Ross, Ben VonHatten, Ed Koopmann, Leonard Koopmann, Joe Lueke, and Bill Wadkins meet at the Dam West Boat Ramp parking lot on the 3rd Thursday every three months.

These 6 retirees load up in Joe Lueke's van and from there they decide what their destination will be.

Their journeys are never planned and have taken them as far as Jefferson Barracks in South St. Louis, Grafton, Riverlands, Shelbyville just to name a few.

The next trip is set for May and who knows where their next destination will be?



Lake Wappapello



Wappapello Dam Construction Painting: Park Ranger Kathy Dickson presented the staff at Wappapello Lake with a painting depicting the construction of the Wappapello Dam from 1938-1941. Kathy completed this project last fall as part of an internship to fulfill her requirements for her degree. The painting will be displayed at the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center.

Wappapello Dam Gets Five YearTest: Passes

The Wappapello Dam received its five-year inspection March 5-6 and according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operation manager Gary Stilts, "We found everything in good shape." Engineers from the lake, the St. Louis District and the Mississippi Valley Division took part in the inspection, which looked at safety, stability and operational aspects of the dam and related structures and



equipment.

The inspection required Wappapello Lake to be lowered below its standard level, or National Geodetic Vertical Datum. This was accomplished by pumping water over

the dam to help better ensure survival of fish downstream. The interior structure of the 60-year old dam was also dewatered to permit close examination for concrete wear and to ensure everything was functioning properly.

This inspection was actually delayed until the sixth year since the previous one (March 1996) to enable the Corps to consolidate several inspections into one. "We used to check the exteriors of the dam one year and its internal workings the next. Now we are on a schedule to do both at the same time," Stilts noted.

Because of wet weather the inspection and necessary repairs was compressed from three to two days. Personnel had to work extended hours, but this enabled them to complete what was originally scheduled for three days' work in two days.

The lake has already been returned to its conservation pool level and normal operation of the dam has been resumed.



While the primary responsibility for the inspection rested with the Army Corps of Engineers, Stilts pointed out that the mission was facilitated by support from the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge which sent equipment and personnel to assist and the nearby city of Puxico, which provided an additional pump to assist with the dewatering.



Diversity Week

April 16—18, 2002

The EEO Office will be hosting the 1st Diversity Week and Commander's Award Program. This event is a multicultural program to increase employee awareness, promote recognition of employees, and highlight career advancement opportunities.

Three days in April have been set aside to promote cultural awareness of all the EEO Special Emphasis Programs. The logo: "All Things for All People" was chosen to emphasize the importance of equal employment opportunity in the workforce.

On April 18, 2002 COL Michael Morrow will be presenting a Commander's Award to the employee who has shown outstanding achievement(s) in EEO.

Some of the featured guests will include:

- **MAJ Lou Lynch** (Tuskegee Airman) will be a guest speaker at the Black Employment Program. MAJ Lynch will also show a video about his experiences as a Tuskegee Airman and interviews with other airmen.

- **COL Robert Crear** (Chief of Staff, HQUSACE) will be a guest speaker at the Black Employment Program. COL Crear will speak on his experiences in the military.

- **Stephanie Duran** (Y98FM) will be the guest speaker at the Hispanic Employment Program. She will speak on her experiences as the first female Hispanic radio talk show host.

- **Katherine Dunham** Dance Technique will be performing during the Black Employment Program. This group is a part of the legendary Ms. Katherine Dunham Dance School in East St. Louis, Illinois.

- **Francie Wolff** (Speakers Bureau) will be a performer for the Federal Women's Program. She will unfold the historical drama of how Missouri women won the right to vote with live singing, lecture, and clips from her video, "Give the Ballot to the Mothers: Songs of the Suffragists."

- **Alan Lookofsky** (Lake Shelbyville) will be exhibiting and demonstrating his stone tool making talent. Members of the audience can participate in making various stone tools, points, and strings from native plants.

If you need additional information concerning the times of the events please call the EEO Office at (314) 331-8059/8436 or watch for the advertisements of these events through posters and e-mail.

Human Resources

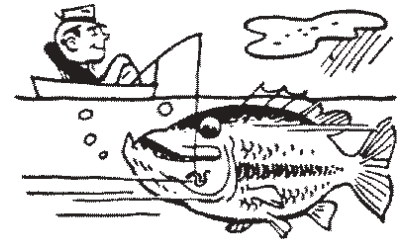


Kelly Services recognized Ms. Virginia Casals as their Employee of the Quarter. She is the first Kelly employee in the St. Louis area to receive the award. Ms. Casals award was given "in recognition for consistently performing at an exemplary and professional level while on assignment at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

Mark Twain Lake

Fishing Looks Great for 2002

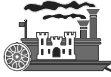
Bass anglers can expect their average catch to be impressive, with one out of every three or four fish being 15' in length. One in ten bass could exceed 18" in length. In other words, your odds of catching a bass over 8 pounds is good. Crappie anglers should experience excellent fishing in 2002. Beginning last fall anglers were catching 9" fish or better and this will continue into spring and summer. Anglers can expect 7 out of 10 fish caught to be 9" or longer. Many will be in the 11-12" range.



Catfishing opportunities include pole and line fishing, jug fishing, and trotline fishing for channel catfish, flathead catfish, and blue catfish. Numerous large catfish are caught each year. Walleye density is low, but fish exceeding 22" are present, especially in the Indian Creek area. Last year anglers reported catching more 14-16" walleye than had been reported for the previous year. The statewide 15" minimum length limit for walleye is in effect for Mark Twain Lake and all its Salt River tributaries.

White bass fishing will be sporadic. Anglers do best when these fish are spawning on riffles in tributary streams in early spring or when white bass are feeding on schooling shad or congregating over underwater humps.

Mark Twain Lake 2002 Fishing Prospects are provided by Missouri Department of Conservation.



Employee of the Month



Mr. Mark Wunsch is commended for outstanding work exemplified by winning two high visibility admiralty cases for the St. Louis District resulting in the recovery of over one million dollars in damages for the Government. Mr. Wunsch has accomplished these victories while also maintaining a very heavy workload in numerous areas, including assisting FUSRAP

and acting as the District's ethics advisor. Mark's initiative and drive to excellence serve as an example for others to emulate. His consistent effort and high level of skill bring credit to him, the Office of Counsel and the St. Louis District. As a result, Mr. Wunsch has been selected as the St. Louis District, Employee of the Month for March, 2002.



In CONOPS with Wenda McGilberry and Rachel Garren

high level of enthusiasm, dedication and pride all in the District workforce projected wherever he went. Sites visited included the headquarters in downtown St. Louis, the Service Base, Clarence Cannon Power Plant, Lock and Dams 24 and 25, Pathfinder, Mel Price Locks and Dam, Rivers Project, and Mark Twain, Carlyle, and Shelbyville Lakes.

At the end of his visit CSM Dils expressed his desire to return soon to visit sites he missed, including Lock and Dam 27, Kaskaskia Lock and Dam, and Rend and Wappapello Lakes. The CSM expressed his appreciation for many of the St. Louis District employees he met by presenting a large number of them with personalized coins-so many, in fact that he ran out before the end of his visit and is mailing more of the coveted tokens of appreciation to the project where he ran out. "It's a pleasure to visit a district that's squared away," he reported.

CSM Dils Visits St. Louis District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Command Sergeant Major (CSM)
Robert Dils visited to the St. Louis District 4-7 March. Dils is the senior



Congratulating Lockmaster Chris Morgan at Lock 24.

enlisted person in the Corps and provides direct advice to Corps Commander Lieutenant General Robert Flowers concerning enlisted personnel and other personnel issues.

The visit marked the 36th such district tour for the CSM and he commented several times about the



At Lake Shelbyville with Jason Selle and Assistant Lake Manager, Tomas Bloor.





Retiree's Corner

by Pete Purcelli,

photos by, Sandor Dombi



The retirees had their monthly luncheon on February 21st at the Salad Bowl. The weather cooperated and brought out a number of regulars and special guests.

Lew Scheuermann mentioned he received a thank you note from the Bakers extending their gratitude to everyone that made their celebration such a success. They were totally surprised, especially by all the cards from the St. Louis area. They even

Mississippi River, like Mark Twain did years ago. (They both qualify as professional River Rats having spent many years in river work.) Charlie also mentioned he and his wife, Jane, were going to visit their twin grandchildren in Florida in a few weeks. The grandchildren need the expert guidance from the "old guy" and Jane is going to be there to smooth things over.

Don Wampler said he tried to call

become members and keep abreast of the information on this subject.

Joe Bisher provided interesting tales about activities at the Arch. He puts in time there several days a week and even gets paid for it. Joe said that he is now with the times, and he has mastered the use of the computer, turning it on and off, and the e-mail application. (Watch out if Joe ever gets your e-mail address.) Joe told interesting stories about his experiences on the dredges. He kept everyone entertained.

Elsie Kalafatich did an impression of a McDonald's worker. She was pouring coffee for Sandor Dombi and you guessed it, she missed the cup.

Sandi talked an octave higher for a minute. He quickly recovered and Elsie apologized profusely. (Before she left, Elsie turned in her waitress card.)

Freddie Kreutz passed away. Fred was a long time employee of the Comptroller's Office in the Examination Section of the Finance & Accounting Branch. Nothing got paid until Fred looked it over. Condolences to his family.

A number of the retirees told great golf stories. Many of them were originals, or at least, never heard by those in attendance.

Joe Bisher received The *Special Award*. We hope he enjoys it.

I look forward to seeing more of you at the next luncheon at the Salad Bowl on March 21st at 11:00am.



Lew and Helen Scheuermann, Jame Denzel, Rich Miller, Larry McCarthy, and the Purcelli's.



Ron and Lois Bockhorst, Mr. Kalefatich and his wife Elsie, Don Wampler, Charlie Denzel and the McCarthy's

sent along a picture and look great. Must be the weather and the lack of stress.

Charlie Denzel said he recently had lunch with John Jansen. John is starting to slow down. He had to give up tennis about a year ago, because he couldn't find any players in his age bracket. He has a regular visitor, Ruddle Spring, and they discuss the

Bob Maxwell before the luncheon, but only reached his answering machine.

Seems that Bob is involved in the administration of the complex where he lives. They needed some "mature" guidance. Don also said that the NARFE publication has some interesting articles about long term care.

He recommended that retirees

The 1927 Flood

by Dr. Michael C. Robinson

The levees were high the valley seemed safe
Nature was allegedly put in her place
The watery beast had been broken and shackled
By the talented men of sword and gold castle

But this bold conclusion was much premature
The earthen protection could not yet endure
For the river remained a very real menace
And was about to unleash a terrible vengeance

In the year '27 the rains ceaselessly fell
They cascaded down as if sent forth by hell
Swollen tributaries sent down their great flows
The stages and discharge continued to grow

The great levees held as long as they could
But no mortal structure could then have withstood
The angry, gorged river trying to claim
A right to its broad, ancestral floodplain

First up near Greenville and then Cabin Teele
The river threatened despite efforts to heal
Bugles and boils that formed in the mounds
That bore witness the river was not really bound

Finally levees crevassed and gave way
Pent up forces could no longer be stayed
The land succumbed to the advancing brown tide
West of Vicksburg the river ran 60 miles wide

The valley was gripped by terror and fear
Cries came from the rooftops with no one to hear
But brave volunteers with mettle and strain
Rescued the stricken in darkness and rain

Some 500 people died in the great flood
A half million more denied livelihoods
Cared for in camps with kindly attention
Fed by the Red Cross and a big-hearted nation

As the waters receded and the land dried
It was times to reflect on what had been tried
Clearly, levees alone could never prevail
Fresh approaches were needed that could never fail.



About the author: Dr. Michael C. Robinson came to Vicksburg in 1982 as the first historian of the Mississippi River Commission/Lower Mississippi Valley Division and served in that capacity until he was appointed chief of Public Affairs in 1994. He continued in that role through the transition of the agency to the Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission and until his death.

Dr. Robinson had written extensively on civil engineering and environmental history and his major works include *"History of Public Works in the United States, 1776-1976,"* *"Water for the West: the Bureau of Reclamation, 1902-1977,"* *"The Mississippi River Commission: An American Epic"* and *"Gunboats, Low Water, and Yankee Ingenuity: A History of Bailey's Dam."*